

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 16 and 25 to 43 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 12, 25, 27 to 30, 32 to 34 and 41 to 43 are independent.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 13 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 2000-218887 (Nakabayashi).

Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any respective intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 10 has been rewritten to include all of the features of Claim 13 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 10 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the

same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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